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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 29th, 36th and 39th meetings, on 1 and 25 May and 29 June 2017. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (A/71/640);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/765 and Corr.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/71/836/Add.5 and Corr.1).

[1] A/C.5/71/SR.29, A/C.5/71/SR.36 and A/C.5/71/SR.39.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.31

4. At the 36th meeting, on 25 May, the representative of Sri Lanka informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached during the informal consultations on the item.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/71/L.31).

6. At the 39th meeting, on 29 June, the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, read out an amendment to the draft resolution by which an additional paragraph would be inserted after operative paragraph 10, reading: "*Recalls* paragraph 36 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to apply vacancy rates of 40.4 per cent and 7.5 per cent to estimate the requirements for National Professional Officers and national General Service staff, respectively, for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018;".

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out amendments to the draft resolution, by which:

(a) In operative paragraph 16 (formerly 15), the figure 513,534,300 would be inserted before the words "dollars for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018", the figure 483,000,000 before the words "dollars for the maintenance of the Force", the figure 24,426,600 before the words "dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations" and the figure 6,107,700 before the words "dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy";

(b) In operative paragraph 17 (formerly 16), the figure 85,589,050 would be inserted before the words "dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2017";

(c) In operative paragraph 19 (formerly 18), the figure 427,945,250 would be inserted before the words "dollars for the period from 1 September 2017 to 30 June 2018" and the figure 42,794,525 before the words "dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246";

(d) The corresponding amounts in paragraphs 18 and 20 (formerly 17 and 19, respectively) would be updated accordingly.

8. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement and requested a recorded vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution as orally amended, as well as on the resolution as orally amended, as a whole.

9. Also at the 39th meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.31, as orally amended, as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 were retained by a recorded vote of 87 to 3, with 53 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India,

Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.31 as a whole was adopted by a recorded vote of 138 to 3, with 2 abstentions (see para. 12). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Central African Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

10. Before the vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.[2]

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution as a whole, as orally amended, statements were made by the representatives of Malta (on behalf of the European Union) and Lebanon.[2]

[2] See A/C.5/71/SR.39.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2305 (2016) of 30 August 2016, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2017,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 70/280 of 17 June 2016,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005, 60/278 of 30 June 2006, 61/250 A of 22 December 2006, 61/250 B of 2 April 2007, 61/250 C of 29 June 2007, 62/265 of 20 June 2008, 63/298 of 30 June 2009, 64/282 of 24 June 2010, 65/303 of 30 June 2011, 66/277 of 21 June 2012, 67/279 of 28 June 2013, 68/292 of 30 June 2014, 69/302 of 25 June 2015 and 70/280,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011, 66/264 of 21 June 2012, 69/307 of 25 June 2015 and 70/286 of 17 June 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 2017, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 39.8 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 96 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in

[1] A/71/640 and A/71/765 and Corr.1.

[2] A/71/836/Add.5 and Corr.1.

particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298, 64/282, 65/303, 66/277, 67/279, 68/292, 69/302 and 70/280;

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298, 64/282, 65/303, 66/277, 67/279, 68/292, 69/302 and 70/280;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

8. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

10 *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

11. *Recalls* paragraph 36 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to apply vacancy rates of 40.4 per cent and 7.5 per cent to estimate the requirements for National Professional Officers and national General Service staff, respectively, for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289, 66/264, 69/307 and 70/286;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

14. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 C, paragraph 21 of resolution 62/265, paragraph 19 of resolution 63/298, paragraph 18 of resolution 64/282, paragraph 15 of resolution 65/303, paragraph 13 of resolution 66/277, paragraph 13 of resolution 67/279, paragraph 13 of resolution 68/292, paragraph 14 of resolution 69/302 and

paragraph 13 of 70/280, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016;[3]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

16. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 513,534,300 dollars for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, inclusive of 483,000,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 24,426,600 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 6,107,700 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

17. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 85,589,050 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2017 in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246 of 23 December 2015, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2017, as set out in its resolution 70/245 of 23 December 2015;

18. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,473,330 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,040,030 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 355,130 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 78,170 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

19. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 427,945,250 dollars for the period from 1 September 2017 to 30 June 2018, at a monthly rate of 42,794,525 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2017 and 2018, as set out in its resolution 70/245, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

20. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 12,366,670 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 10,200,170 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 1,775,670 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 390,830 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

21. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraphs 17 and 19 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 36,243,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2016, in accordance with the levels

[3] A/71/640.

updated in its resolution 70/246, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2016, as set out in its resolution 70/245;

22. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the total amount of 36,243,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2016, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 21 above;

23. *Decides* that the increase of 237,600 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2016 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 36,243,000 dollars referred to in paragraphs 21 and 22 above;

24. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

25. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

26. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".